

## *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Great Cormorant)

### Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

**Class:** Aves (Birds)

**Order:** Suliformes (Frigatebirds, Boobies, Cormorants, Darters, And Allies)

**Family:** Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants And Shags)

#### General comments:

Less than 200 breeding pairs, sharp population decline in last 5 years likely caused by predation by Bald Eagles

#### Species Conservation Range Maps for Great Cormorant:

Town Map: [Phalacrocorax carbo\\_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Phalacrocorax carbo\\_HUC12.pdf](#)

#### SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

##### Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: Threatened

##### State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

##### Recent Significant Declines:

Great Cormorant is currently undergoing steep population declines, which has already led to, or if unchecked is likely to lead to, local extinction and/or range contraction.

##### Regional Endemic: NA

##### High Regional Conservation Priority:

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

##### High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

##### Understudied rare taxa: NA

##### Historical: NA

##### Culturally Significant: NA

#### Habitats Assigned to Great Cormorant:

##### Formation Name Cliff & Rock

Macrogroup Name Rocky Coast

Habitat System Name: Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***

##### Formation Name Subtidal

Macrogroup Name Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)

Habitat System Name: Offshore

Habitat System Name: Pelagic (Water Column) Macrogroup - Unknown Habitat System

#### Stressors Assigned to Great Cormorant:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		
	Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low

##### IUCN Level 1 Threat

##### Biological Resource Use

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**Notes:** Competition with commercial interests for prey items and disturbance

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**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Pollution**

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Industrial and Military Effluents

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**Notes:** Oil spills

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases**

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Problematic Native Species-Diseases

**Severity:** Severe

**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

**Notes:** Bald eagle predation may cause extirpation of this species in the very near future; intervention only practical on Seal Island NWR

### Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Great Cormorant:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

### Conservation Actions Associated with the Island Nesting Seabirds Guild:

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Survey and Monitoring	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
Continue seabird restoration activities at historic nesting sites using social attraction, vegetation management, and predator control			

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> on-going
Determine which factors influence breeding success and productivity			

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Problematic Native Species-Diseases, Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

<b>Conservation Action</b>	<b>Category:</b> Research	<b>Biological Priority:</b> high	<b>Type:</b> new
Determine the association with commercial fisheries and climate-induced changes to food availability			

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

### Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

### Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*